

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 25030 01 OF 02 271623Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 L-03 /052 W

----- 017670

O 271622Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4396

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR PINT

SUBJECT: CHARGE CALLS ON OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER

CHIRAC'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR

REF: PARIS 24730

1. MARIE-FRANCE GARAUD, POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC, RECEIVED ME IN HER MATIGNON OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON AT MY REQUEST TO DISCUSS THE BACKGROUND CONSEQUENCES OF CHIRAC'S ABRUPT DEPARTURE. ASIDE FROM PREDICTABLE ASSURANCES ON HER PART THAT FUNDAMENTALLY ALL WAS WELL BETWEEN PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND HER BOSS, SHE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) CHIRAC WILL FIGHT NEITHER GISCARD NOR GOF POLICY, ON WHICH BOTH MEN BASICALLY AGREE. THE MAIN BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN WAS ELECTORAL POLICY. CHIRAC FELT THAT TO SHORTSTOP THE GROWING POWER OF THE LEFT, THE DATE OF LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 25030 01 OF 02 271623Z

SHOULD BE ADVANCED TO IMPROVE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. SHE

ADDED THAT A DEFEAT OF THE MAJORITY IN 1978 WOULD BE MORE TOLERABLE TO THE PRESIDENT, WHO SEES THINGS IN THE LIGHT OF HIS SEVEN-YEAR TERM, THAN TO CHIRAC, WHO HAS TO SEE THINGS ON A MUCH NEARER HORIZON. GARAUD CONTENTS THAT MATIGNON STUDIES HAD INDICATED THE MAJORITY WOULD SURELY LOSE IN 1978 UNLESS IT TOOK ANOTHER ELECTORAL TACK.

(B) CHIRAC FELT THAT THE BEST WAY TO UNBLOCK THE CURRENT POLITICAL DILEMMA SHORT OF INCREASING HIS, THE PRIME MINISTER, POWERS WAS TO PERMIT THE PRESIDENT TO RECONSTRUCT THE CABINET ENTIRELY BRINGING IN TECHNOCRATS AS PRESIDENT DEGAULLE DID IN 1962 WHEN HE REPLACED DEBRE WITH POMPIDOU.

(C) CHIRAC WILL RUN IN A PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION THIS AUTUMN FOR A SEAT IN PARLIAMENT. ALTHOUGH NOT IDENTIFIED THE DISTRICT IN WHICH CHIRAC WILL RUN IS NOT A "SAFE SEAT" SINCE IN LAST SPRING'S CANTONAL ELECTIONS IT VOTED 58 PERCENT FOR THE LEFT.

(D) CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S "GAMBLE" OF GIVING HIS MAJORITY A CENTER-LEFT HUE, GARAUD IMPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ADVISED TO FOLLOW DEGAULLE'S EXAMPLE AND ENLARGE HIS MAJORITY BY GAINING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE VOTERS IN THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH HE STANDS.

(E) THE UDR (GAULLISTS) PARTY WILL NOT, AS SOME OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN PREDICTING, MOVE INTO SOME KIND OF OPPOSITION ON THE RIGHT. RATHER WILL IT STAY IN THE MAJORITY, SINCE ITS BEST INTERESTS LIE IN SO DOING.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 25030 02 OF 02 271626Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 L-03 /052 W

----- 017749

O 271622Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4397

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25030

2. COMMENT: GARAUD, CITING THE PRESENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF OLIVIER GUICHARD (UDR---PROBABLE SUCCESSOR TO JEAN LECANUET IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE), JEAN LECANUET (CENTER), AND MICHEL PONIATOWSKI (INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR), REMARKED THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS IF THEY CONTINUE TO ACT AS PARTY LEADERS, MAKING DEALS WITH ONE ANOTHER RATHER THAN LOOKING AFTER THE AFFAIRS OF STATE, AS FRANCE WOULD BE GOING BACK TO THE 4TH REPUBLIC. THIS SEEMS TO CONTRADICT, HOWEVER, THE OVERALL TONE OF HER REMARKS TO ME, WHICH IMPLIED VERY ACTIVE POLITICAL MANEUVERING IN THE GOF IN THE MONTHS TO COME. CHIRAC'S APPARENT DECISION TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT IS A COURAGEOUS ACT ON HIS PART SINCE HE COULD VERY WELL LOSE IN THE HEAVILY LEFT CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH HE PLANS TO RUN. WHETHER OR NOT HE IS ELECTED, HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT THAT, AS THE HOTTEST UDR PROPERTY GOING TODAY, HE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VERY ACTIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 25030 02 OF 02 271626Z

ROLE IN PARTY AFFAIRS. GARAUD CLOSED BY SAYING THAT THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER WOULD MAINTAIN AN OFFICE IN PARIS, LENDING CREDENCE TO THE GENERAL BELIEF THAT HIS PROFILE WILL BE ANYTHING BUT LOW.
GAMMON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS25030
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760327-0425
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760812/aaaaakaf.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 24730
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARGE CALLS ON OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR
TAGS: PINT, FR, US, (GARAUD, MARIE-FRANCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006